

Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program

- **What is the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program?**

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program assists eligible southwest Virginia residents who are former Burley tobacco quota holders or producers, and their immediate family members who are enrolled in a degree-seeking program with up to \$2,000 for tuition and fees at any 4-year accredited institution (in-state or out-of-state), **after all other awarded gift assistance has been exhausted**. The scholarship is for tuition and fees only, and does not cover room and board, books and supplies. The scholarship program is limited to one degree per student or 4-years whichever happens first. Awards are based on cumulative GPA with the highest GPA being awarded first.

- **Who Is Eligible To Apply:** Permanent residents of the 14 Southwest Virginia localities which includes the following counties; Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe as well as the towns of Bristol, VA and Norton, VA who are enrolled in Bachelor's or Master's degree at a public or private, accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state.

Applicants must be a citizen of the United States and must have resided in Virginia for a minimum of 12 months

Students from other states/localities who are attending a college or university in the Southwest Virginia region are not considered permanent residents of the Southwest localities.

- **Be a direct descendant (spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild, etc) of a Burley tobacco quota holder, grower, or worker during the indemnification period of 1998 through 2004. You must be able to submit documentation in the form of a 156EZ or an MQ-24 from the FSA office showing quota possession or tobacco production OR a 1099G from the Federal Government showing participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco Buy Out.**
- **When Can I Apply:** The application and its criteria open March 1st and closes December 15th each funding cycle. **ALL AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON FUNDING FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION.** Support documentation must be received within 30 days of submission of your application. Please monitor the VA Tobacco Commission website to determine the availability of funds prior to the start date of each funding cycle.

- **How Do I Qualify?**

Submit an online application at www.tic.virginia.gov or www.tobacco.swcenter.edu from March through December of the funding year.

Be a degree-seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university.

- **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program are eligible for the award.** Special conditions exist for students seeking teacher licensure only. The applicant must be employed by a VA public school system under a Provisional License and using these funds to satisfy the requirements set forth by VA DOE. **Funds cannot be used for endorsement to an existing license or for recertification.**
- Provide an official transcript as documentation of cumulative GPA. High school graduates need to submit a cumulative grade report showing GPA as based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale.
- Attend an accredited four-year, public or private, in-state or out-of-state, college or university;
- Be a U.S. national, or permanent legal resident of the United States; and a resident of Virginia for a minimum of 12 months.
- Mail support documentation to reach the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program as specified in the application process.

- **How are awards made?**

Awards are based on cumulative GPA with the highest cumulative GPA's awarded first. Students must be in good academic standing with the college/university. Renewal students compete with the entire field of qualified applicants. No one is grandfathered into the program. A cumulative GPA scale will be determined prior to awards being made.

- **What is the amount of the award?** The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship:

- Pays up to **\$2,000** per year for tuition and fees in an accredited in-state or out-of-state, public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled full-time.
 - Full-time status for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program is **15** undergraduate credit hours per semester or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**
- Pays up to **\$1,500** per year for tuition and fees at an accredited in-state or out-of-state, public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled in less than **15** undergraduate semester credit hours or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**.
- Due to the fact that funding is received on a fiscal year basis, the academic year for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship program includes the Fall semester of the first year, Spring and Summer semesters of the second year.

- **Must I attend an in-state college or university?**

- The award can be used at any accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state. However, the applicant can have no ties to the other state, including driver's license, voter registration, tax payments, etc. Students who are receiving in-state tuition at a college or university outside of Virginia are deemed to have established ties to the other state.

- **What is the purpose of the Student Authorization Form?**

The Student Authorization Form (SAF) found at the end of the online Career Planning Workshop must be completed and returned in order to allow the college or university to share account information with the VA Tobacco Scholarships Office. Colleges and universities are not informed of a student's award until the SAF is received in the VA Tobacco Scholarships Office.

- **Can I use this award for books, housing, travel, etc?**

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship can be used for tuition and fees **ONLY**. It does not cover books, housing, travel, etc.

- **How is this award applied if I receive a Pell Grant, Employer-Sponsored tuition, and/or other grants that do not have to be paid back?**

All other gifted assistance must be applied to a student's account before the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship is applied. Eligibility for funding is based on the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship serving as a "last dollar" program not intended to replace or substitute for any other awarded gift assistance. A student can opt to use the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship award instead of Federal Student Loans.

- **Am I eligible to apply for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship throughout my education, i.e. Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees?**

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship may be used to complete **ONLY** one degree program or 4 years whichever comes first. Lifetime program benefit is restricted to the completion of one degree program.

- **What do I need to do to ensure receiving my award as outlined funding for the Fall and Spring semesters?**

You must submit verification of enrollment from the registrar's office or a copy of your schedule for each semester. This documentation must be received within 14 days after enrollment for each semester.